(b) The main objectives were:

(1) To create awareness among the general public and to provide exposure to tourism industry.

(2) To showcase the Indian Tourism Product under one roof.

(3) To enlarge overseas participation and position India International Tourism Expo & Marl as a major forum in South Asia for travel and tourism.

The highlights included various tourism related seminars, cultural performances, India Tourism Day/National Tourism Award function etc.

Expenditure on the celebrations by Ministry of Tourism is estimated at Rs. 12.45 lakhs.

(c) Yes, Sir, Government was able to showcase all the segments of Travel &
Tourism Industry under one roof to the Indian and Overseas Trade and consumers.

(d) The arrivals have shown an upward trend during 1999 by 5.2% over 1998. The budgetary plan allocation is:

1998-99	Rs. 109.68 Crores
1999-2000	Rs. 110.00 Crores (RE)

Promotion of Tourism in Assam

2115. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for better promotion of tourism in the State of Assam received by the Central Government during the last three years;

(b) the number of proposals approved and rejected by Government during this period; and

(c) the financial assistance proposed to be provided by Government of Assam during the next three years for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Development of tourism is undertaken by the State Governments. However, to supplement their efforts, Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with them every year. 28 projects have been sanctioned to the State of Assam during last three years for an amount of Rs. 1821.48 lakhs. During the year 1999-2000, 20 projects have been prioritised for an amount of Rs.723.00 lakhs.